**Organisms Changing Their Environment**
**Note-taking Guide - Answer Key**

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*feed, cattails, reach, beavers, habitat, underwater, geese, lodge, young, dam, frogs, flow, knocked, herons, flooding, lilies, overflowing, decay, twigs, birds, woodpecker, nesting, barks, osprey, fish hawks*

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Organisms, such as <u>beavers</u>, change their environment to suit their needs.

Beavers cut down trees to make their underwater home. This <u>underwater</u> home is called a <u>lodge</u>.

To build their lodge, they have to build a <u>dam</u> over the stream.

A beaver dam blocks the <u>flow</u> of running water and creates a pond.

The beavers have <u>knocked</u> down many trees to build their lodge.

When water flows onto dry land, it causes <u>flooding</u>.

The <u>overflowing</u> beaver pond will eventually cause some of the old trees in the area, such as the birch, to <u>decay</u> and die.

Many <u>birds</u> that live in these trees would have to find new homes.

But birds such as the <u>woodpecker</u> can find their favorite food on these rotting tree stumps—insects!

The tree stumps also become a great <u>nesting</u> ground for different kinds of birds, such as <u>osprey</u>.

Ospreys are sometimes called <u>fish</u> <u>hawks</u>, as they now happily <u>feed</u> on the large number of fish that live in the new pond.

The new pond has created a whole new <u>habitat</u> for other wetland organisms, such as water lilies, <u>cattails</u>, frogs, turtles, muskrats, and otters.

Birds such as wood ducks and Canada <u>geese</u> find the pond perfect for living and for raising their <u>young</u>.

<u>Frogs</u> and insects lay their eggs in the calm waters of the pond.

Birds, such as the great blue <u>heron</u> and the Eastern kingbird, move in to feed on these new food sources.

Beavers eat the water <u>lilies</u> that grow in the pond.

Because of the flooding, beavers can now <u>reach</u> many new trees that were earlier far from the stream.

Beavers also love to eat the <u>bark</u> off trees and <u>twigs</u> along with the leaves and buds.